

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

Gerhard HOPPEN

Serial No.: 09/598,406

Filed: June 21, 2000

Examiner: A. Chang

Art Unit: 2872

Title: DUV-CAPABLE MICROSCOPE OBJECTIVE WITH PARFOCAL IR FOCUS

REPLY AND AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed on January 10, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as provided below. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b), a marked up version of the amended claims showing the changes made with brackets and underlines is attached as Exhibit A.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 21 without prejudice or disclaimer and amend claims 1, 10-16, 19, 22, and 23 as follows:

- sub 21
1. (Twice Amended) A DUV-capable microscope objective, comprising:
a lens group that comprises a plurality of lens elements made of quartz glass and fluorite, wherein the objective has a DUV focus at a DUV wavelength, λ_{DUV} 235 nm, wherein the DUV focus encompasses a DUV wavelength region $\lambda_{\text{DUV}} \pm \Delta\lambda$, where $\Delta\lambda = 8$ nm, wherein the objective has an IR focus for an IR wavelength λ_{IR} 760 nm at the same focal point as the DUV focus at λ_{DUV} , and wherein a penultimate lens element of the lens group comprises a concave configuration on both sides, wherein an object-side outer radius of the penultimate element is smaller than its image-side outer radius.

#12/C
Amend
N/E
Ct to Drafts
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